

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Feb. 14, 2005

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

MEDIA ADVISORY

POSSIBLE RARE FORM OF HIV VIRUS WARRANTS CAUTION

WHO: Nancy Bowen, M.D.

San Diego County Public Health Officer

WHAT: Press availability to discuss possible rare, drug resistant form of AIDS

WHEN: 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 14

WHERE: San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)

1700 Pacific Highway

San Diego

WHY: The *New York Times* newspaper has reported that a possible rare, drug resistant,

aggressive form of the HIV virus is being investigated by scientists in New York City. A virus from an unidentified San Diego resident is one of two samples being studied to see if either might be the source of this form of HIV detected in a New York City man. The investigation has not yet resulted in definitive answers, however, HHSA wants to

give the public as much information as possible, given the possible San Diego

connection. This also is an opportunity to re-emphasize guidelines for prevention of the

spread of HIV.

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